Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11

NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 DODE-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 L-03

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-----067593 100546Z/16

R 100440Z APR 78 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2801 INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR AMEMBASSY RANGOON AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SNAR TH MS
SUBJECT: PROSPECTS FOR FOSTERING THAI-MALAYSIAN NARCOTICS
COOPERATION

REF: SONGKHLA 143, KUALA LUMPUR 2572

1. POLICE MAJOR GENERAL PAIROJ PUSANAVAYIN, THE REGIONAL COMMANDER OF THE BORDER PATROL POLICE IN SOUTHERN THAILAND, AND JERRY LIEW, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE MALAYSIAN POLICE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO A MEETING IN PENANG TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF HEROIN REFINERIES REPORTEDLY LOCATED ALONG THE THAI-MALAYSIAN BORDER, AND THE PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATIVE ACTIONS AGAINST THESE LABS (REFTELS). THE MEETING IS ONE OF WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE A SERIES OF STEPS RESULTING IN BETTER COORDINATION BETWEEN THAI AND MALAYSIAN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT UNITS.

2. FOSTERING SUCH COOPERATION IS A CONCERN BECAUSE OF THE GROWING NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN SOUTHERN THAILAND AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NORTHERN MALAYSIA. UNCONFIRMED INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF REFINERIES IN THE SOUTHERN THAI PROVINCES AND NORTHERN MALAYSIA. TRAFFICKERS GENERALLY EXPLOIT THE DISTRUST AND LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN THAI AND MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS TO THEIR ADVANTAGE AND THE NARCOTICS SITUATION, WHILE MURKY, REMAINS ONE OF CONTINUING CONCERN, GIVEN THE INADEQUACY OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE SOUTH.

3. IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH DEA SONGKHLA HAS PROPOSED THAT REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN THE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORT IN THE AREA, SUCH AS THE BPP, THE ROYAL THAI NAVY, THE ROYAL THAI ARMY, THE HIGHWAY POLICE, CUSTOMS AND OTHERS, MEET WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS FROM NORTHERN MALAYSIA FOR SEVERAL DAYS AT SOME MUTUALLY CONVENIENT PLACE, SUCH AS PENANG. THE OBJECT OF THE MEETINGS WOULD BE TO DEVELOP FAMILIARITY BETWEEN THE OFFICIALS FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER, AND ALSO TO OUTLINE A 90 TO 120 DAY PROGRAM OF INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION AND OTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD NECESSITATE FREQUENT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE IS A LONG WAY
FROM BECOMING A REALITY, BUT THE IDEA HAS BEEN
BROACHED WITH THAI OFFICIALS IN THE SOUTH, AND IN BANGKOK
WITH POLICE MAJOR GENERAL PHAO SARASIN, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE POLICE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION CENTER. SOUTHERN THAI
OFFICIALS HAVE REACTED FAVORABLY, WHILE IN BANGKOK THE REACTION
HAS NEITHER BEEN PARTICULARLY FAVORABLE, NOR COMPLETELY DISCOURAGING.
THE MEETING BETWEEN PAIROT AND LIEW MAY FURTHER CLARIFY THE
PROSPECTS FOR ACTUALLY CONVENING SUCH A MEETING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: NARCOTICS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 10 apr 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO10305
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780153-0863 Format: TEL

From: BANGKOK Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780476/aaaacmmh.tel

Line Count: 85 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 7a9faab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ACTION EA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SONGKHLA 143, 78 KUALA LUMPUR 2572

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 16 may 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:**

Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a SAS ID: 3025676 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: PROSPECTS FOR FOSTERING THAI-MALAYSIAN NARCOTICS COOPERATION

TAGS: SNAR, TH, MY

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7a9faab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014